tracting the best talents availabe in the country. Some of these are:

— The scheme of flexible complementing/merit promotion is being introduced in all the scientific departments/organisations.

— Programmes have been launched through which core group of scientists are created in the country with all the necessary modern facilites required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

— Special schemes are being implemented to provide assistance to scientists for attending international conferences besides enabling younger scientists to attend specialised training programmes outside India.

— There is provision for Temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the schemes of scientists' Pool.

— A provision has also been made for the creation of super-numerary posts.

— New Scientific departments/organisations such as Departments of Bio-technology, Ocean Development, Environment, Non-conventional Energy Sources Centre for Development of Telematics have been set up and some of these are in high technology areas. These are likely to provide job opportunities for the scientists, technologists and doctors.

— The financial allocation for Science & Technology activities have been increased substantially over the successive Five Year Plans.

— Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers have been made to scientific institutions to improve the organisational efficiency and working conditions of scientists.

(d) Question does not arise.

Strengthening of Indian Air Force to meet Pak acquisition of French laser-guided bombing system

2734. DR. H. P. SHARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of Pakistan's recent move to acquire the Thomson CFS Allis laser-guided bombing fire control system from France for F-16s supplied by US, which is considered to be one of the world's most sophisticated bombing fire-control systems today; and

(b) if so, what Government's reaction thereto, stating the steps contemplated by Government to strentghen the striking power of the Indian Air Force to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Appropriate measures are being taken in this regard. It would not be in the public interest, however to disclose further details in this matter.

Detection of Central excise duty of Rs. one crore at Meerut

2735. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the initiation of and Inspector Central Excise Collectorate Meerut, evasion of Central Excise duty of Rs. 1 crore was detected consequent on raid conducted on M/s. Vijay Tractors Corporation and its subsidiary M/s. Vijay Engineering Corporation, Bijnor, for unauthorised manufacture and sale of diesel power generator sets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the case is yet to be decided by the collectorate, Central Excise, Meerut;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for delay of